

**THE EMBODIMENTS OF THE INVENTION IN WHICH AN EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY
OR PRIVILEGE IS CLAIMED ARE DEFINED AS FOLLOWS:**

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1. An ink transfer mechanism for a printing press including a supply roller to collect ink from a liquid supply, a primary flow metering device to produce a primary flow of said ink carried by said roller, and a secondary flow metering device spaced from said primary flow metering device to provide a secondary flow on said roller, whereby a difference in the flow of said liquid between said metering devices is supplied to a flow output.
2. An ink transfer mechanism according to claim 1, wherein said secondary flow metering device includes a blade portion.
3. An ink transfer mechanism according to claim 1, wherein said secondary flow metering device is biased towards said supply roller.
4. An ink transfer mechanism according to claim 2, wherein said secondary flow metering device moves between an operative position which provides a predetermined separation distance between said blade portion and an outer surface of said supply roller, and a retracted position.
5. An ink transfer mechanism according to claim 2, wherein said blade portion includes a contoured surface portion.
6. An ink transfer mechanism according to claim 5, wherein said contoured surface portion is arcuate.
7. An ink transfer mechanism according to claim 3, wherein a predetermined magnitude of said separation distance is maintained by an element located between said exterior surface and said blade portion.
8. A method of metering ink from a supply roller of a printing press including the steps of: metering of a flow of said ink onto said supply roller to produce a primary flow, metering of said primary flow transferred by said supply roller to produce a secondary flow, directing a difference

between said primary flow and said secondary flow from a surface of said supply roller to produce a tertiary flow.

9. A metering device to monitor the return flow of ink to an ink supply of a printing press.

10. The metering device of claim 9, wherein said metering device includes a body and a blade portion connected to said body.

11. A metering device according to claim 10, wherein an end portion of said blade portion is arcuate.

12. The metering device of claim 10, wherein said blade portion includes a contoured surface having an entrance region, a middle region, and an exit region.

13. A metering device according to claim 12, wherein said entrance region contains a shallow angle of less than 20 degrees with respect to an adjacent surface.

14. A metering device according to claim 10, wherein an end portion of said blade portion includes a corner region to promote separation of ink flow along said end portion.